

Why do we care about vital statistics data?

Summaries of vital statistics data form the health indicators that we most often rely on to monitor health in our communities. Vital statistics-based health indicators are used to identify state and local health problems and the groups of people most affected by these problems.

What are some examples of vital statistics health indicators?

- Percent of low weight births
- Teen birth rate
- Percent of births to unmarried women
- Fetal mortality rate
- Infant mortality rate
- Death rates for the five leading causes of death

How are vital statistics health indicators used to impact health in our communities?

By comparing Louisiana's state and community-level health indicators with those of the nation and other states, groups of people who are especially affected by poor health outcomes can be identified. Health indicator information for these groups is used by health care planners, policy makers and community leaders to decide where health intervention and education programs will be targeted and to direct allocation of scarce health resources in Louisiana.

Who uses vital statistics data?

- Community organizations
- Hospitals
- Health practitioners
- Health facility planners
- Students
- Private and public policy makers
- Media
- Health researchers
- Individuals interested in health trends among people like themselves
- **In short, everyone concerned about tracking or improving health in their communities.**

Louisiana Vital Statistics Reports

Louisiana's vital statistics reports summarize information about people who experience vital events, such as births, deaths and infant deaths. Vital statistics are published in several formats: data tables, reports (*Louisiana Vital Statistics Overview* and *Louisiana Vital Statistics Report*), posters (*Louisiana's Health At A Glance*) and pocket-sized fact cards (*Vital Statistics At A Glance*).

Louisiana's Health At A Glance

The *Louisiana's Health At A Glance* wall poster contains the most often requested parish-level statistics, including population counts, poverty levels, birth and death counts and rates, and more.

Vital Statistics At A Glance

Vital Statistics At A Glance is a pocket-sized fact card containing state-level data for births and deaths, most popular baby names, and more.

Louisiana Health Report Card

The *Louisiana Health Report Card* compiles information that describes the health status of our citizens and the activities of the state programs that address our health needs. The report card contains statistics on births, illness and deaths; information on current assessment and prevention initiatives; and recommendations to improve our health status.

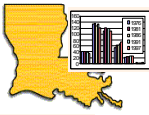
Where can I get these publications or request additional information?

To view or download our data tables and reports, please visit our website at
<http://www.dhh.state.la.us/oph/statctr/default.htm>

For posters, fact cards, and information not included in our reports, please contact:
State Center for Health Statistics
325 Loyola Avenue, Room 106
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-568-5337

Vital Statistics Reports and Health Report Card

**State Center for Health Statistics
Annual Publications**



**Essential
Information for
Tracking
Louisiana's
Health**



A publication of the Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health
State Center for Health Statistics

Which State Center for Health Statistics publication is the one that meets your needs?

Louisiana Vital Statistics Report

- Chapters on *Population, Live Births, Fetal Deaths, Pregnancy Terminations, Total Deaths, Infant and Maternal Deaths, Marriage, Divorce, Healthy People 2000*
- Detailed state-level descriptions of current health status and trends over time, using text, tables and graphs
- Detailed parish-level tables of many health indicators
- Technical Appendix describing data sources, formulae for calculating rates, definitions of terms
- Certificate facsimiles

Excerpt from the 1997 Louisiana Vital Statistics Report:

- Age-adjusted death rates for the five leading causes of death in the major race-sex groups **allow for direct comparison of these groups.** Age-adjusted death rates showed the following (Table D6, Figure D10):
 - Males, particularly black males, were at higher risk than females for death from heart disease, cancer, stroke, and accidental deaths.**
 - Blacks males were at higher risk than white males for all of the leading causes of death. Black females were at higher risk than white females for death from heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes.**

| Table D6. Age-Adjusted Death Rates* for the Five Leading Causes of Death, by Sex and Race Louisiana, 1993-1997 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cause of Death (ICD-9 Code) | Race/Sex | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
| Diseases of the Heart (390-398, 402, 404-429) | Total | 175.9 | 165.5 | 163.2 | 157.5 | 153.2 |
| | White Male | 214.1 | 203.3 | 200.7 | 198.1 | 191.4 |
| | White Female | 113.4 | 108.6 | 103.5 | 103.8 | 101.1 |

Louisiana Vital Statistics Overview

- Chapters on *Population, Live Births, Fetal Deaths, Pregnancy Terminations, Total Deaths, Infant Deaths, Marriage, Divorce*
- Brief state-level overview of current health status and trends over time, using text, tables, and graphs
- Detailed parish-level tables of most important health indicators
- Technical Appendix describing data sources, formulae for calculating rates, definitions of terms

Excerpt from the 1997 Louisiana Vital Statistics Overview:

In 1997, there were 65,947 live births to Louisiana residents, an increase from the 65,186 Louisiana resident births in 1996 (up 1.17%). At the national level there was a slight decrease (0.87%) in the number of births between 1996 and 1997. Louisiana's 1997 crude birth rate was 15.2 live births per 1,000 population. This rate was similar to both the 1996 Louisiana rate (15.0) and the 1997 national rate (15.4)

| Table 2.1: Birth Counts, Percent Changes, and Crude Birth Rates Louisiana and United States, 1988-1997 | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Louisiana | | | | United States | |
| Year | Number | % Change from Previous Year | Rate* | % Change from Previous Year | Rate* |
| 1988 | 73887 | -0.09% | 16.7 | 1.41% | 16.0 |
| 1989 | 72639 | -1.69% | 16.6 | 2.63% | 16.4 |

Louisiana Health Report Card

- Chapters on *Population and Vital Statistics, Morbidity, Health Assessment Programs, Preventive Health Outreach and Service Programs, Louisiana State Health Care System, Recommendations for Improving Health Status*
- Compilation of information from many state health programs
- Program descriptions, statistics, assessments, recommendations

Excerpt from the 1999 Louisiana Health Report Card:

In the table below, percentages are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states. In 1997, 81.3% of Louisiana residents who gave birth entered prenatal care in the first trimester, as compared to 82.5% of mothers in the United States. Louisiana ranked 37th in the nation and second among neighboring states for first trimester entry into prenatal care.

| Percent of Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1997 | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Location | Percent of Mothers | National Ranking |
| Alabama | 82.3 | 32 |
| Arkansas | 75.7 | 48 |
| Louisiana | 81.3 | 37 |

Louisiana's Health At A Glance

Wall poster with our most often requested parish-level data on *Population, Births, Deaths, Poverty, more*

Vital Statistics At A Glance

Pocket-sized fact card with state-level data for *Births and Deaths, most popular baby names, more*